

**ABSTRACT**

Welding tongs have two limbs which can be moved relative to one another. At least one first limb is supported such that it can be moved relative to a drive housing between an insertion position and a welding position. A work piece to be welded is clamped in the welding position to welding contacts on ends of the welding tong limbs, the contacts being essentially inclined towards each other. The welding tongs include a self-supporting moveable housing that can move along the drive housing and which includes a retaining device that supports the first welding tong limb outside the drive housing.